
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
EFFECTS OF MANDATING HEALTH CARE COVERAGE OF CANNABIDIOL
OIL DERIVED FROM INDUSTRIAL HEMP.

1 WHEREAS, industrial hemp is defined under the State's
2 Industrial Hemp Pilot Program as the cultivated plant *Cannabis*
3 *sativa* L. and any part of that plant, whether growing or not,
4 with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more
5 than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis or a tetrahydrocannabinol
6 concentration allowed by federal law, whichever is greater; and
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8 WHEREAS, industrial hemp-derived products have been removed
9 from Schedule I of the federal Controlled Substances Act under
10 certain circumstances; and
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12 WHEREAS, industrial hemp contains cannabidiol, a
13 therapeutic non-psychoactive chemical compound, and low levels
14 of tetrahydrocannabinol, a psychoactive chemical compound that
15 is found in high levels in other types of cannabis plants, that
16 are classified as marijuana; and
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18 WHEREAS, the medicinal benefits of cannabidiol have been
19 recently recognized by the United States Food and Drug
20 Administration, which, on June 25, 2018, approved Epidiolex
21 (cannabidiol), an oral solution for the treatment of seizures
22 associated with severe forms of epilepsy, specifically, Lennox-
23 Gastaut syndrome and Dravet syndrome, in patients two years of
24 age and older; and
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26 WHEREAS, both cannabidiol and tetrahydrocannabinol have
27 similar medicinal benefits, such as relieving pain, reducing
28 nausea, easing migraines, and reducing inflammation; however,
29 cannabidiol, unlike tetrahydrocannabinol, does not produce a
30 high, does not have psychoactive side effects, does not increase
31 appetite, but does decrease seizures; and
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1 WHEREAS, H.B. No. 20, introduced during the Regular Session
2 of 2019, requires health insurers and similar entities that
3 provide coverage for health care to provide drug coverage for
4 cannabidiol oil that is derived from industrial hemp; and
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6 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 23-51, Hawaii Revised
7 Statutes, before any legislative measure that mandates health
8 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
9 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part
10 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be
11 considered, Concurrent Resolutions shall be passed that
12 designate a specific legislative bill for the Auditor to review
13 and prepare a report for submission to the Legislature that
14 assesses both the social and financial effects of the proposed
15 mandated coverage under that legislative bill; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
18 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the
19 Auditor is requested to conduct an assessment, pursuant to
20 sections 25-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social
21 and financial effects of mandating health care coverage of
22 cannabidiol oil that is derived from industrial hemp, as
23 provided in H.B. No. 20, introduced during the Regular Session
24 of 2019; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
27 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
28 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
29 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
30 2020; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and Insurance
34 Commissioner.

